



# City Administrator's Report

August 2011

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Please share your comments and suggestions with us.*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Key Meetings.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Community Events.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Flags on State Street .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>City Administrator</b>	
Employee Agreement Results In Cost Savings.....	3
<b>Administrative Services</b>	
2011 General Municipal Election. ....	3
<b>Airport</b>	
Airport Continues To Monitor Federal Funding. ....	3
Drop In June Passenger Count.....	3
New Terminal Scheduled To Open.....	3
<b>Community Development</b>	
Planning Commission Meetings.....	4
Redevelopment Agency.....	4
<b>Finance</b>	
Transient Occupancy Tax Update. ....	4
<b>Fire</b>	
Major Structure Fire.....	5
Fire Radio Upgrades Improve Communication. ....	5
New Infant Safe Surrender Program.....	5
<b>Library</b>	
Eastside Library Mural Unveiling. ....	5
Public Workshop For Central Library Plaza Design. ....	6
Summer Reading Program. ....	6
Magic At The Library. ....	6
<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	
New Playgrounds Add To Kids' Enjoyment.....	6
New Parks and Recreation Online Activity Guide. ....	6
After-School Programs For The New School Year.....	6
Two Concerts Left On Thursday Nights.....	7
New Rewards Card Available At The Golf Club. ....	7
Storm Drain Screens Installed. ....	7

And The Emmy Goes To . . . . .	7
<b>Police</b>	
Police Business Office Supervisor Arrested For Grand Theft. ....	7
Viva La Fiesta 2011. ....	8
<b>Public Works</b>	
Energy Retrofit Program For Mobile Home Residents. ....	8
Cliff Drive Resurfacing And Restriping Completed. ....	8
Ortega Street Bridge Replacement Project. ....	8
Junipero Street Bridge Repair Project Completed. ....	8
<b>Waterfront</b>	
Clean Marinas Program Recertification For Santa Barbara Harbor. ....	9
New Interim Waterfront Director. ....	9
Free Movies On Stearns Wharf. ....	9

## Key Meetings

**City Council** Tuesdays; August 9, 16, and 23; 2 p.m.

## Community Events

**Free Movie Night** Friday, August 26; dusk; Stearns Wharf.  
[www.stearnswharf.org](http://www.stearnswharf.org)

**Reef & Run** Tuesdays, through August 30; 5:30 p.m.; East Beach. [www.reefandrun.org](http://www.reefandrun.org)

**Nite Moves** Wednesdays, through August 31; 5 p.m.; Leadbetter Beach. [www.runsantabarbara.com](http://www.runsantabarbara.com)

**Concerts in the Park** Thursdays, August 11 and 18; 6-8:30 p.m.; Chase Palm Park. [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

## Flags on State Street

**Alzheimer's Association** August 8–18

**Heal the Ocean** August 18–29

**United Way** August 29–September 9

## City Administrator

***Employee Agreement Results In Cost Savings.*** The City Council approved an agreement with the General Employees bargaining unit, SEIU Local 620, which will save the City almost \$1.7 million in Fiscal Year 2012, with \$824,000 applied toward the General Fund. This is the third year of significant labor concessions, including a furlough or unpaid leave for employees. In total, the City achieved over \$4.4 million in salary and benefit concessions from all of its employee groups, with about \$2.8 million of that in the General Fund. These savings will help offset the impact of reduced revenues and increased pension costs.

## Administrative Services

***2011 General Municipal Election.*** The City of Santa Barbara will be holding a vote-by-mail general municipal election on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, for three City Council seats. The nomination period runs from July 18, 2011 to August 12, 2011. The last day to register to vote is October 24, 2011. For additional election-related information, please visit the City's website at [www.SBCityVote.org](http://www.SBCityVote.org) or contact the City's Clerk's Office at 564-5309.

## Airport

***Airport Continues To Monitor Federal Funding.*** Grant funding for airport improvements was affected by the failure of legislators to pass a short-term funding extension. Prior to the shutdown, the Airport expected a grant award by mid-August of about \$2.7 million (\$2 million for the Airline Terminal Project and \$750,000 for the Airport Master Plan). The lack of funding would have required the use of Airport revenues or reserves as a stopgap measure. The City is working with Congresswoman Lois Capps' office, the American Association of Airport Executives, and the California Airports Council to advise Congress about the critical consequences of the shutdown and the need for multi-year legislation to continue airport infrastructure funding.

***Drop In June Passenger Count.*** There was a 12% decrease in passenger traffic compared to June 2010, a significant drop indicative of the nonstop service losses to Salt Lake City, Sacramento, and San Jose. Approximately 65,135 passengers arrived and departed aboard five airlines between five nonstop destinations. On average, the highest capacity flights were aboard United Airlines to Denver at 92.6% capacity and Alaska Airlines to Seattle at 89.6% capacity. Overall, the passenger count at the Airport is down 2.3% for the first half of 2011.

***New Terminal Scheduled To Open.*** On August 18, the new terminal will open to travelers. Passengers will enjoy streamlined convenience with one easy airline check-in area, one entrance to modern security checkpoints, one comfortable boarding gate area with full amenities, and one large indoor baggage claim. Passengers will board their flight on glass jet bridges with views of the ocean, mountains, and the airfield. The last phase of construction will include moving and refurbishing the old terminal for offices, creating a new short-term parking area directly in front of the terminal, and installing a new aircraft ramp to the northwest.

## Community Development

**Planning Commission Meetings.** The Planning Commission will have three meetings in August. On August 11, the Commission will hold a hearing on a Development Plan for Antioch University, located at 602 Anacapa Street, and may hold an environmental comment hearing on a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for a proposed Alzheimer's Care Facility at 1820 De la Vina Street.

On August 18, the Commission is scheduled to hold environmental comment hearings on Draft Mitigated Negative Declarations for two projects: a proposed 9-lot subdivision and annexation at 457 N. Hope Avenue and the replacement of the Chapala Street Bridge.

On August 25, the Commission will hold a joint discussion meeting with the Fire and Police Commission to discuss the Police Station at 215 E. Figueroa Street and may hold an environmental hearing for the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the replacement of Chapala Street Bridge, if not held on August 18.

**Redevelopment Agency.** Recently Governor Brown approved the State's budget, including two bills that eliminate redevelopment agencies or allow agencies to exist if they pay their share of \$1.7 billion this year and \$400 million annually in perpetuity. To continue funding projects, the City's Redevelopment Agency would pay over \$7.1 million in fiscal year 2012 and approximately \$1.4 million every year thereafter. These payments to the State would significantly affect the ability of the Redevelopment Agency to fund important infrastructure needs in the downtown and waterfront.

In response, the League of California Cities, the California Redevelopment Association, and the cities of San Jose and Union City filed a petition with the California Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of the bills. The central claim in the lawsuit is that the bills violate Proposition 22, the constitutional amendment passed by 61% of California voters in November 2010. The revenues protected by Proposition 22 specifically include the annual increments of property taxes allocated to California's 400 redevelopment agencies. Staff will continue to monitor the litigation as it proceeds.

## Finance

**Transient Occupancy Tax Update.** During June 2011, the final month of fiscal year, the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue grew 11.5% over the prior June with collections of \$1,263,503. Total TOT collected for the fiscal year 2011 was \$12.46 million, which is 8.7% above the fiscal year 2010 results. June's strong growth is encouraging as we head into the summer travel season. The year-end results are approximately \$171,000 above year-end estimates, and the favorable budget variance in TOT can be used to offset potential shortfalls in other General Fund revenues at year-end.

City of Santa Barbara								
JUNE 2011 TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	Fiscal Year 2008	Change Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2009	Change Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2010	Change Prior Year	Fiscal Year 2011	Change Prior Year
July	\$1,613,163	3.6%	\$1,631,965	1.2%	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%	\$1,571,324	12.8%
Aug	1,645,684	3.4%	1,820,811	10.6%	1,474,189	-19.0%	1,591,121	7.9%
Sept	1,218,695	1.9%	1,196,294	-1.8%	1,106,152	-7.5%	1,154,834	4.4%
Oct	1,075,341	2.3%	1,049,515	-2.4%	944,230	-10.0%	1,058,405	12.1%
Nov	870,754	-1.8%	770,009	-11.6%	672,636	-12.6%	752,641	11.9%
Dec	669,133	-0.1%	599,323	-10.4%	588,594	-1.8%	651,909	10.8%
Jan	691,651	2.1%	680,474	-1.6%	685,633	0.8%	692,393	1.0%
Feb	811,319	7.0%	643,342	-20.7%	683,280	6.2%	742,361	8.6%
Mar	1,000,573	4.9%	760,032	-24.0%	823,759	8.4%	825,040	0.2%
April	958,282	-8.5%	930,516	-2.9%	957,350	2.9%	1,060,466	10.8%
May	1,118,049	6.2%	944,898	-15.5%	1,001,965	6.0%	1,093,703	9.2%
June	1,262,909	1.0%	1,010,973	-19.9%	1,133,124	12.1%	1,263,503	11.5%
<b>FY Total</b>	<b>\$12,935,553</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>12,038,153</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>	<b>11,464,132</b>	<b>-4.8%</b>	<b>\$12,457,699</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
<b>Year-End Estimate</b>							<b>\$12,286,931</b>	<b>7.2%</b>

## Fire

**Major Structure Fire.** On July 8 at 2:50 a.m., a well-involved, four-alarm structure fire destroyed a multi-unit apartment building at 1419 De La Vina Street. The fire extended to adjacent apartment buildings and caused some damage before the fire was knocked down. Due to the size of the fire and complexity of its location, additional units from the County and Montecito fire departments also responded. All residents in the affected buildings were evacuated safely. The exact cause could not be determined.

**Fire Radio Upgrades Improve Communication.** The Fire Department recently upgraded their radio system to improve multiple agency communication. A tactical frequency was added to allow better fire crew communication during emergency incidents.

**New Infant Safe Surrender Program.** On July 26, Council approved a Safe Surrender program that ensures that infants will be accepted at any City fire station if a parent or guardian cannot care for them. Previously, Cottage Hospital was the only Safe Surrender site in Santa Barbara. Fire stations will display signage designating participation in the program. When an infant is dropped off, firefighters will register and care for the newborn until he or she is transported to Cottage Hospital for further treatment.

## Library

**Eastside Library Mural Unveiling.** On August 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., the Eastside Library will celebrate the unveiling of the new tile mural created by children and their families. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art provided assistance for the patio mural. The tiles represent the children's perspective of where they live and include beautiful artwork depicting the Santa Barbara area.

**Public Workshop For Central Library Plaza Design.** The first of two public workshops to invite community involvement in the design phase of the Central Library Plaza Redesign Project was held on Saturday, July 16. Approximately 25 members of the public, participated in the morning session at the Library. The second workshop will be held on September 13 in the Faulkner Gallery in the Central Library.

**Summer Reading Program.** This summer, the Santa Barbara Public Library participated in “One World, Many Stories,” the nationwide public library summer reading program. Families attended weekly events at all branches. Approximately 950 children achieved the top goal of reading 25 books during the two month reading incentive program, and many continued on to record more books. “VolunTeens” assisted Library staff and earned community service hours listening to younger children report on the books read. Two hundred fifty teenagers signed up for the teen portion of the program, “You Are Here.” The Friends of Santa Barbara Public Library provided funding for these events and reading incentives.

**Magic At The Library.** Don't miss your chance to be amazed by magician Shawn McMaster at the following dates and times:

- Saturday, August 13; 10:30 a.m. at the Central Library
- Tuesday, August 23; 7:00 p.m. at the Goleta Library
- Wednesday, August 24; 10:30 a.m. at the Eastside Library & 4:00 p.m. at the Montecito Library
- Thursday, August 25; 11:00 a.m. at the Solvang Library

For additional information about library programs, locations, and hours, visit [www.sbplibrary.org](http://www.sbplibrary.org). Library cards, borrowing materials, and all programs are **FREE** and open to all.

## Parks and Recreation

**New Playgrounds Add To Kids' Enjoyment.** The City recently replaced playgrounds at four parks: Willowglen Park, Hidden Valley Park, Hilda Ray Park, and Los Baños Pool. Playgrounds were replaced with state-of-the-art play structures that included expanded areas of rubberized surfacing. The playground installed at Los Baños Pool has a special ship-themed play structure to complement its harbor setting. These new playgrounds should provide many years of quality play for the children of Santa Barbara.

**New Parks and Recreation Online Activity Guide.** The new Parks and Recreation fall/winter activity guide, available online on August 12, will feature information on after-school sports and youth programs, adult sports programs, dance and fitness classes, and facility rentals. In addition, a four-color brochure featuring youth and adult fall programs will be mailed to 20,000 residents in early September. To view or download the guide, visit [www.sbparksandrecreation.com](http://www.sbparksandrecreation.com).

**After-School Programs For The New School Year.** Registration began for the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) on August 1 for grades 1-6 at Adams, Monroe, Roosevelt, and Washington elementary schools. These programs, cosponsored by the Santa Barbara School District, provide elementary school students with access to homework assistance, crafts, clubs, free sports leagues, and field trips. For more information, call the

Youth Activities office at 560-7555.

Free after-school sports programs are offered at all Santa Barbara elementary schools, starting with flag football in the fall. Call the Parks and Recreation Sports Office at 564-5422 for information.

The junior high sports program also kicks off this fall with after-school sports throughout the year, including flag football, basketball, soccer, cross-country, and track and field. These activities are free to students at Santa Barbara, La Cumbre, La Colina and Goleta Valley junior high schools. Other offerings include a free Bike Program, X-Country training and meets, and a photography club. Cosponsors with Parks and Recreation include the Police Activities League, Santa Barbara School District, City of Goleta, Club West, Girls Inc., and Bici Centro. Register at the school or at [www.santabarbaraPAL.com](http://www.santabarbaraPAL.com). Please call 962-5560 for more information.

**Two Concerts Left On Thursday Nights.** Free Thursday night concerts at Chase Palm Park conclude this month with two new acts. A Music Jam-boree on August 11 features local youth bands False Puppet, Jaded Cloud, Bad Jack, and other guests. The final concert features Sgt. Pepper, a Beatles tribute band. Concerts are held from 6-8:30 p.m. on the meadow at the park. Bring blankets, a picnic, friends and family and enjoy music and dancing in the park.

**New Rewards Card Available At The Golf Club.** The new Muni Rewards card for the Santa Barbara Golf Club can now be purchased for an annual fee of \$125. The card entitles the golfer to discounts on greens fees and golf carts, a free drink at Mulligans with the purchase of food, 10% off on Pro Shop merchandise, golf lesson incentives, and greens fee discounts for guest golfers. Over 145 cards have been sold since the card was introduced in early June.

**Storm Drain Screens Installed.** Storm drain screens are now installed throughout the City. The retractable screens will keep trash from entering storm drains, creeks, estuaries, and the ocean. The screens have perforated holes that allow moderate amounts of water to flow through while holding trash back at the curbside. The street sweeping trucks pick up the trash on their scheduled routes. To prevent the risk of flooding, the screens open and allow water to flow during large storms and swing back into place after the heavy storm water subsides. A map of all screens can be found here: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

**And The Emmy Goes To . . .** the City of Santa Barbara! The Creeks Division's "Favorite Surf Spot" public service announcement recently won a Regional Emmy Award. Produced by City TV and starring Creeks Supervisor George Johnson, the announcement is part of a series of ads featuring beach activities taking place at the storm drain. The series theme is "The Ocean Begins on Your Street," illustrating the important concept that everyday activities at home have an effect on water quality at the beaches where we play. Watch it on the City's website at: [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

## **Police**

**Police Business Office Supervisor Arrested For Grand Theft.** Karen Flores, the non-sworn supervisor of the business office, has been arrested for grand theft embezzlement of public funds from the Police Department. Approximately seven months ago, discrepancies were noticed in parking citation revenue. An exhaustive investigation was commissioned to affirm the integrity of the accounting systems and business practices, including the close monitoring and



surveillance of personnel. With the help of the District Attorney's office, a further investigation revealed a pattern of funds that were diverted into the private account of Mrs. Flores. The exact value of the loss has yet to be determined, and the investigation is ongoing, but Mrs. Flores has admitted to taking an amount in excess of \$100,000 over the past several years. Mrs. Flores is on unpaid administrative leave and has been booked at Santa Barbara County Jail for grand theft on \$250,000 bail. Mrs. Flores is a twenty-two-year member of the Police Department and has been the supervisor of the business office for the past fifteen years.

***Viva La Fiesta 2011.*** To ensure public safety and enjoyment of Fiesta activities, up to 160 local and regional officers worked during the event, including officers from Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Lompoc Police Department, Santa Maria Police Department, State Parole, Santa Barbara County Probation Department, Ventura Police Department, and California Alcoholic Beverage Control Department. This was in addition to the numerous Santa Barbara police officers working patrol-related functions. No major incidents occurred, and most of the arrests were alcohol-related.

## Public Works

***Energy Retrofit Program For Mobile Home Residents.*** Beginning August 15, Santa Barbara residents are invited to participate in the Comprehensive Mobile Home Program, sponsored by the South County Energy Efficiency Partnership (SCEEP). The program will offer free energy-efficient products and services, including compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), low-flow showerheads, weatherization, and duct testing. The program is designed to help customers achieve their energy-savings goals. To sign up, call 888-988-9829 or visit [www.synergycompanies.org](http://www.synergycompanies.org).

***Cliff Drive Resurfacing And Restriping Completed.*** The resurfacing and restriping of Cliff Drive, also known as State Route 225, between Las Positas Road and Castillo Street has been completed. Caltrans, who maintains control of all state highways, removed the striping, applied a layer of micro-surfacing designed to extend the life of the highway, and then installed permanent striping. As a part of the restriping effort, the portion of Cliff Drive between Meigs Road and Loma Alta Road was reduced from a four-lane road to a two-lane road with new bike lanes and a center turning lane.

***Ortega Street Bridge Replacement Project.*** July was a busy month for the project with the removal of the old bridge across Mission Creek, installation of temporary shoring, and driving of approximately half of the piles for bridge abutments and retaining wall foundations. Pile driving is expected to be complete in early August and is scheduled for daytime hours to minimize noise impacts for residents in the evening. Structural work on the new bridge and walls will start later this month. For more information, please visit the project's website at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).

***Junipero Street Bridge Repair Project Completed.*** The Streets crew completed a complicated repair project on the Junipero Street Bridge near Oak Park, replacing the framework of the bridge to improve its structural soundness and keep pedestrians safe. On one side of the bridge, the 6" x 6" vertical posts were required to be replaced but posed a challenge because a sewer main was attached to the bridge. Thanks to an innovative design approach,



new pressure-treated posts were installed, retaining the original design and strengthening the bridge.

## Waterfront

***Clean Marinas Program Recertification For Santa Barbara Harbor.*** In 2006, the Santa Barbara Harbor was one of the first public marinas to receive a certification as a California Clean Marina. Today, 108 marinas have earned that distinction. In June, the Waterfront's program was re-examined as part of an upgraded and more rigorous five-year recertification review and passed again with a high score of compliance. Staff is proud of this recognition and wishes to thank the boating community for its partnership in limiting pollution in Santa Barbara Harbor.

***New Interim Waterfront Director.*** Scott Riedman was recently appointed as interim director to manage the City's Waterfront Department. With ten years of experience as the Waterfront Business Manager, Scott oversaw preparation of the department's annual budget and analyzed departmental revenues and expenditures. He also managed property leases at the Harbor and Stearns Wharf and coordinated parking services at the Waterfront parking lots. Scott received a Bachelor's Degree from UCSB. An executive recruitment process is currently underway, with a permanent appointment anticipated in Fall 2011.

***Free Movies On Stearns Wharf.*** Free Friday Night Movies on Stearns Wharf continue with *Toy Story* on August 26 and *Grease* on September 2. For added fun, participate in a movie-themed costume contest on both dates for a chance to win great prizes! Families are encouraged to dress warmly and bring blankets and beach chairs. Movies are shown on the large screen at the seaward-end of the Wharf. All movies start at dusk, and free parking is available on the Wharf after 7:00 p.m. Popcorn and refreshments will be available for purchase. For movie and costume contest details, visit [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov).